

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5930

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10728

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, EG, LE

SUBJECT: BAKR EL-SHARKAWY, EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST

MOGADISCIO 1223

1. RE PARA 4 REFTEL THE WEEKLY AL-USBU'A AL-ARABI WITH 60,000 CIRCULATION IS SECOND LARGEST MAGAZINE IN LEBANON. IT IS PUBLISHED BY A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN WHO PAYS LITTLE ATTENTION TO THE NON-COMMERCIAL SIDE OF THE ENTERPRISE. POLITITCAL SLANT SHIFTS WITH EDITORAL STAFF AND, WHILE ONCE FAIRLY LEFTIST, HAS BECOME MODERATE.

2. BAKR EL-SHARKAWY ASSOCAITED WITH MAGAZINE THREE OR FOUR MONTHS AGO ON NON-CONTRACTUAL PROBATIONARY BASIS AND HAS CONTRIBUTED SEVERAL ARTICLES SINCE THEN. HE DID A STORY DESCRIBING TRIP OF AMERICAN DEL TO BERBERA TO INVESTAGE PENTAGON CHARGES THAT IT HAD BECOME A SOVIET BASE. EL-SHARAWY ACCOMPANIED THIS DEL. HIS ARTICLE SAYS THAT BERBERA IS NOT A SOVIET BASE, JUST EMPTY BARACKS, AND THAT SINCE SOMALIS NEVER DENIED THEY HAD MADE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO SOVIETS THE DEL FOUND NOTHING CONTRADICTING SOMALI GOVT STATEMENTS. HE DID ANOTHER ARTICLE ON KAMPALA OAU SUMMIT WHICH SAID THAT AFRICANS ENTERED CONFERENCE

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WITH MOOD OF DISAPPOINTMENT IN ARABS, FOR AFTER HAVING SUPPORTED

ARABS IN OCTOBER WAR THEY GOT LESS THAN THEY EXPECTED IN RETURN
THIS, HE CLAIMED, EXPLAINED AFRICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ARAB EFFORT TO
LINE UP VOTES BEHIND RESOLUTION ON EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM
UNGA.
GODLEY

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NNN

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